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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01 /033 W
----------281324Z 083644 /44
R 280748Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2413
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TW
SUBJECT: ARREST OF WANG HSING-NAN

REF: (A) TAIPEI 510, (B) STATE 18009, (C) STATE 17359 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: A JANUARY 22 TZU LI WAN PAO (TLWP) SPECIAL ARTICLE CONTAINS THE MOST DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE INVESTIGATION AND ARREST OF WANG HSING-NAN THAT HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS. WHILE MANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE ARE SIMILAR TO RUMORS CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IN TAIPEI, THE EMBASSY HAS NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE TLWP ACCOUNT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE INVESTIGATION WAS CENTERED ON THE HANDWRITING ON THE PACKAGE CONTAINING THE BOMB. FAILING TO OBTAIN ANY LEADS FROM THE HANDWRITING, THE INVESTIGATORS THEN ATTEMPTED TO MATCH UP A FINGERPRINT FOUND ON THE PACKAGE WITH FINGERPRINTS IN MILITARY SERVICE FILES. THROUGH THIS METHOD THEY WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY WANG.

3. THE AUTHORITIES THEN DISCOVERED THAT WANG WAS IN THE
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US FOR STUDY AND BUSINESS, THE ARTICLE CONTINUED. FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF AN OVERSEAS "GANG." WHEN THE AUTHORITIES LATER LEARNED THAT WANG WAS TRAVELING IN HONG KONG AND JAPAN, THEY TOOK NO ACTION IN ORDER TO AVOID CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. NOT UNTIL JANUARY 7, AS WANG WAS TRANSITING THROUGH TAIPEI ON HIS WAY TO JAPAN, DID THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE TO TAKE ACTION.

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WHEN THE PLANE LANDED, WANG AND SOME OTHER PASSENGERS
REMAINED ABOARD. NOT WANTING TO CREAT A MISUNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE FOREIGN PASSENGERS, THE ARTICLE SAID, THE AUTHORIZA
TIES DECIDED TO LURE WANG OUT OF THE PLANE. THE CREW OF
THE PLANE WAS ASKED TO MAKE A FALSE ANNOUCEMENT THAT A
SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE PLANE AND THAT
PASSENGERS MUST DISEMBARK AND WAIT IN THE TRANSIT LOUNGE.
WANG LEFT THE PLANE WITH THE OTHER PASSENGERS AND WAS
UNALARMED BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO
COMMIT HIS CRIME UNDETECTED. BUT, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES,
WHEN HE SAW THAT THE ROOM WAS VERY CROWDED AND FELT TWO
MEN PUSHING HIM OUT, HE KNEW HE HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN THE
DRAGNET.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE, SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION
OF WANG ARE SIMILAR TO RUMORS THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING
IN TAIPEI. HOWEVER, THE ACCONT OF THE GROC'S RUSE TO
LURE WANG INTO THE TRANSIT LOUNGE AT THE AIRPORT IS PARTI-
CULARLY OPEN TO SUSPICION SINCE IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING
THAT NORMAL PRACTICE ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS IS TO
REQUEST PASSENGERS TO DISEMBARK AT TRANSIT POINTS FOR
SECURITY REASONS.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT PASS THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE TLWP ARTICLE TO ROBERT SMYLIE AND SENATOR HUMPHREY'S
OFFICE AS ONE UNOFFICIAL AND UNVERIFIED ACCOUNT OF WANG'S
INVESTIGATION AND ARREST.

6. FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE ABOVE, THE EMBASSY
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LEARNED UNOFFICIALLY THAT WANG'S TRIAL IS BEING HELD TODAY
(JANUARY 27). WE WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT ON THE TRIAL
AND ITS OUTCOME AS SOON AS FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES
AVAILABLE.
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Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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